



Homeland
Security

May 10, 2019

Matthew Hoppock
MuckRock
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA

Re: **DHS Appeal Number 2019-HQAP-00254**
FOIA Request Number 2018-HQFO-01121

Dear Mr. Hoppock:

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has received your appeal of the response by the DHS Privacy Office to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request concerning records regarding e-mail messages from January 20, 2017, to the date this FOIA request was processed containing the words “Zero Tolerance,” “Family Separation,” or “Separate Families” from the following custodians: Gene P. Hamilton, John Kelly (former DHS Secretary), Kirstjen Nielsen. (Date Range for Record Search: From 1/20/2017 to 6/22/2018). On behalf of the Deputy Associate General Counsel for General Law, we acknowledge your appeal and are assigning it number **2019-HQAP-00254** for tracking purposes. Please reference this number in any future communications about your appeal.

A high number of FOIA requests have been received by the Department. Accordingly, we have adopted the court-sanctioned practice of generally handling backlogged appeals on a first-in, first-out basis.¹ While we will make every effort to process your appeal on a timely basis, there may be some delay in resolving this matter.

The status of your appeal is now available online and can be accessed at: <https://www.dhs.gov/foia-status>, by using the appeal number. Status information is updated daily. Alternatively, you can download the DHS eFOIA Mobile App, the free app is available for all Apple and Android devices. With the DHS eFOIA Mobile App, you can submit FOIA requests or check the status of requests, access all of the content on the FOIA website, and receive updates anytime.

Should you have any questions concerning the processing of your appeal, please contact me at Bradley.White@hq.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bradley E. White".

Bradley E. White
FOIA Officer
Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
Privacy Office Appeals/Litigation

¹ Appeals of expedited treatment denials will be handled on an expedited basis.